



## Management Report - July 2010

### Conference in Khabarovsk Highlights Credit Union Achievements



The Manager Member Services Elenita San Roque made a presentation on the Self-Regulation for credit unions at the International Conference on the Experiences, Issues and Future Perspectives of Micro-finance in Komsomolsk, Khabarovsk, Russia on July 2-3. ACCU Affiliate Member, the Interregional Association of Credit Unions in the Far East and Zabaikalye Region is one of the organizers of the conference along with the local GOs and NGOs. The conference was a platform to educate the government on the significant role of credit unions in development. ACCU also witnessed the 15th anniversary celebration of the Credit Union First Far Eastern, the founding member of the interregional association and the largest credit union in Khabarovsk.

### Aflatoun’s Meeting Hosted by ACCU in Bangkok

ACCU hosted the Aflatoun’s Asia Regional Meeting in Bangkok on 29th to 31st of July. Attended by 31 participants from 15 countries, the meeting discussed the concept, programme and network of Aflatoun, exchanged information and lessons learned, discussed ways to strengthen and consolidate the country programmes, and provided input for the regional and global strategic planning of Aflatoun. ACCU is a partner of Aflatoun Child Social and Financial Education of the Netherlands.

### 360 Degrees Financial Literacy Trainers Manual Receives Thumbs Up



Twenty-five Directors and Managers of credit unions appreciated the initiative of ACCU in developing the trainers’ manual on 360 Degrees Financial Literacy for Credit Union Members after its testing on July 6 to 8 in the Philippines. The manual is guide for national federation trainers to train credit union staff enabling them to carry out financial literacy program for members and potential members. A financially literate membership of credit unions is the key to credit union’s success and fulfillment of its original mission. Assigned as Credit Union Business Solution No. 16, the training manual is anticipated to set the tone for standard financial literacy education in Asian credit unions.

The pressing need for improved financial literacy on credit union members is of vital importance due to the deterioration of personal finances and the proliferation of new, and often complex, financial products that demand more financial expertise of consumers. The financial illiteracy of members has also tremendous consequences in the institution level (credit union) such as non-payment of loans resulting to high delinquency, low profit, unable to increase institutional capital and negative image.



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### Malaysian Cooperative Leaders Inspired of Thai Credit Unions achievements



ACCU facilitated the study visit of sixty-five Malaysian cooperative leaders on July 28-31 in Thailand. The leaders were impressed of the achievements of Klongchan Credit Union, St. Peter Credit Union, Credit Union League of Thailand and the Federation of Savings and Credit Cooperatives of Thailand. On their visit to ACCU, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the newly formed credit cooperative federation submitted the membership application to ACCU. It will be placed for Board's approval in September 2010 meeting in Korea. In the absence of a federation, the credit cooperatives in Malaysia are affiliated in ANGKASA, the apex organization for all types of cooperatives. With the formation of the Federation of Credit Cooperative Union of Malaysia, credit cooperatives in Malaysia can now access information, technologies and learning opportunities from ACCU and other credit union movements in Asia. The federation can provide the necessary services distinct for savings and credit business.

### ACCU President and CEO represent Asian CUs to World Credit Union Conference

The President, John F. Rodrigues and CEO Ranjith Hettiarachchi represented ACCU and its members to WOCCU's World Credit Union Conference on July 11 to 15 in Las Vegas, USA. The conference, held in conjunction with the America's Credit Union Conference was attended by more than 1,000 credit union leaders in more than 90 countries. Next year's world credit union conference will be held in Glasgow, Scotland.

### Training Needs Assessment for Azerbaijan CUs



ACCU CEO Ranjith Hettiarachchi performed a training need assessment for Azerbaijan credit unions on July 4 to 9. There are approximately 62 credit unions with 14,572 members operating in the country. Azerbaijan Credit Union Association (ACUA), the apex body of the credit unions in Azerbaijan provides training and education services to credit unions. Internalizing the credit union values, strategies for credit union growth and viability were among the key training required by credit unions. ACUA has been accepted as an Affiliate member of ACCU on March 2010.

ACCU Secretary and SANASA Federation's Chairman, Mr. Gunarathna Perera received the Outstanding Community Leader Award from the Prime Minister's office of Sri Lanka. The award was meant for Mr. Perera's contribution on community development through credit unions.







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### Staff Development: Trainers Training on Financial Management



Program Assistant Kamon Kiattisirikumpon completed the Training for Finance Trainers (TFT1) course held at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, on 12th – 16th July. The training sponsored by Agriterra was aimed to build the confidence, course design and facilitation skills of finance staff to deliver relevant and effective finance management training as well as the pre-written Mango financial management training course to Agriterra partners. Mango (which stands for Management Accounting for Non-Governmental Organisations), is a UK-based registered charity with a mission to improve financial management in the humanitarian and development sectors. Mango was commissioned by Agriterra to carry out the training.

The course was restricted to 10 people to ensure that needs of individual participants are met. A wide variety of learning methods to stimulate interest and meet the differing learning styles of participants – including group problem-solving activities and discussions, quizzes, games, illustrated presentations and demonstration of techniques were used. During the course, participants designed and develop, with full support and guidance, a short finance training session to be delivered in pairs on the final day. A comprehensive course resources folder packed full of advice and ideas was also provided. Kamon is currently in charge of the credit union promotion in Agriterra supported project in Laos where he is very much involved in providing training for volunteers.

### ACCU and CCA Plan for the next Phase CU Development Project

The meeting of ACCU technical team and CCA's Program Officer, Asia and Microfinance Derek Cameron on July 21 to 23 laid out initial programming for credit union development from April 2011 to March 2015. The meeting also updated the implementation of the current project on Credit Union Strengthening in Asia that is due to end on March 2011. The current project is supporting ACCESS Branding, Credit Union Microfinance Innovation (CUMI), promotion of competency courses for Directors and CEOs, Governance and support to Mongolian credit unions.

### Ongoing Development Work in Laos

Program Assistant facilitated two-day training for the staff of Savings and Credit Union Development in Laos (SACUDIL) on his recent visit on July 25 to 30. Due to changes in the set up of Oudomxay province (one of the project's pilot provinces), the project team organized a project orientation meeting for the staff of Integrated Rural Development (IRD) in Oudomxay province. To avoid duplication of development work in the field, the project supports the existing programs of the local government unit. The provincial government of Laos has existing program to organize Village Development Funds (VDFs). SACUDIL is supporting the government to upgrade the growth of VDFs by transforming them into full pledge savings and credit unions. Agriterra of the Netherlands is supporting the project.

### Sri Lankan COOP-RUPEES Auditors Trained

ACCU facilitated the COOP-RUPEES Auditors Training for the Sri Lankan regulators on July 23-24 in Sri Lanka. Developed with the technical assistance of ACCU, COOP-RUPEES is the prudential standard for credit unions in Sri Lanka. It has both quantitative and qualitative indicators. The auditors will use the prudential standard to assess the performance of the societies. Further, the review of CUMI implementation in SANASA was made on July 25.